

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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January 20, 2000 LB 367

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, yes, Mr. President, members of the body. I do appreciate the discussion, and I think Senator Kristensen has eliminated an even larger arena of discussion that we could and probably should be having. I do strongly believe that people should have representation when decisions are being made about their lives. And I'm not certain we're at a final product on this bill. I feel comfortable with this bill, but I would like to get input back from the city and the county, and I would like to have them enter into this discussion as well. Senator Kristensen was right, the current mayor did support this very exact same policy when we were voting on it for Douglas County. And that was in 1998, I believe, no, that was in 1996. And he also supported statutory requirements on the first and second class cities and villages, in 1988. So, I think that we need to consider the policy. We are the only state (sic) in the whole state that doesn't have any provisions for its planning and zoning commission in statute. And maybe we'll all concur eventually that we don't need it, but I suspect that we'll conclude that we do need it. And we don't know from day to day what problems are going to come up, what new administrations are going to be, and so we need to assure ourselves. We have that responsibility, I think, to see that these planning and zoning commissions, city councils, what have you are representative and that they do have the opportunity for people to be heard. Although I must say, about our planning and zoning commission, I want to make this very clear, it is an excellent one. I think it was probably the first one in the state. And, as I said, it was done by interlocal agreement, which is why we've never touched it with state statutes before. And we have a lot of dedicated people. And I think that we've sort of been in the forefront on these planning and zoning issues across the state. So I do want to reference that and say that I think that we've done a very good job here in Lancaster County. We've got lots of problems on the horizon with infrastructure and all of those kinds of things because of our tremendous growth. It's even more important now than ever that we have a good process that people can be involved in. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The question before the body is, shall LB 367 be advanced to E & R Initial?